



Washington State Department of Agriculture

Hearing Notice

For immediate release: August 1, 2002 (02-43)

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Improved structural pest inspections sought for homeowners

OLYMPIA – Homeowners who hire inspectors to look for wood destroying organisms such as carpenter ants and termites will have a better understanding of what they are paying for under new rules proposed by the state Department of Agriculture. Clarification of existing rules will also help structural pest inspectors understand what is required of them when inspecting homes. Comments on the proposal will be taken at five locations Aug. 6.

The hearings will be held simultaneously through use of the Department of Information Services' Interactive Technologies via videoconference. They are scheduled at 6 p.m. Aug. 6 at the following locations:

- Lacey: 710 Sleater Kinney Road S.E., Suite Q
- Renton: 1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 112
- Vancouver: 2500 NE 65th Ave.
- Spokane: 1101 N. Argonne, Suite 109
- Yakima: 15 W. Yakima Avenue, Suite 220

WSDA staff worked with an advisory group of home inspectors and pest control operators to develop the following proposals: define the purpose of rules related to wood destroying organisms; expand and clarify the rules' definitions section; describe in detail information to be included in a written report; and establish report guidelines for describing certain problems, including providing a diagram of the inspected property.

WSDA has licensed structural pest inspectors since 1992. Existing rules apply to inspections that take place during a real estate transaction or prior to pest control treatments. Inspectors are required to carry either an errors and omissions insurance policy or surety bond and they cannot use ads describing themselves as structural pest inspectors unless they are properly licensed. The agency investigates complaints from consumers who believe they've received false or fraudulent inspections for wood destroying organisms.

For a copy of the proposed rules, call Laurie Mauerman at (360) 902-2012. Send written comments to: Washington State Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Management Division, P.O. Box 42589, Olympia, WA 98504-2589. Comments may also be sent by FAX to (360) 902-2093, or e-mail Laurie Mauerman at lmauerman@agr.wa.gov. Comments must be received by Aug. 7.

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